**Portaportal / Delicious Username: achertok01**

**What are some key features of a web-based bookmarking utility that are helpful to teachers who want to share links with students?**

**I believe there are two primary classroom advantages to a web-based bookmarking utility. The first is that you control the amount of potentially distracting material that students are exposed to. If you want to send them to the New York Times’ website, and you simply ask them to “Google” the newspaper, the chances of students getting off track are quite high (not to mention finding inappropriate sites). If, however, all students log onto your Portaportal account, and then link directly to the NYT, you are more likely to keep everyone on task. Secondly, a web-based bookmarking service like Portaportal is just a very organized way to provide online resources. Especially with younger children it is very helpful to have all the information in one placed, and organized clearly by topic.**

**What are some key features of a social bookmarking utility that are helpful to teachers who want to find websites for instructional purposes?**

I just love that this resource allows you to comment on the quality of the websites because of the time it saves. If you are looking for a resource on the civil war, for example, there is an endless amount of chaff out there to sort through, and so a service like Delicious will greatly increase your efficiency. Further, as with most other web 2.0 services, the value of Delicious will continue to increase as more and more people use, because its rankings will become increasingly refined. With a seemingly endless supply of information online, social ranking tools are becoming increasingly essential.

**What are the differences between the two?**

The largest difference between the two is the social component of Delicious. With Portaportal you are simply designing a resource, with Delicious you are becoming a member of a community. I would say that the simplicity and directness of Portaportal would be best for younger students. With older students, however, Delicious allows for a more engaging exploration (which is especially useful if you want the students to find sources of their own). Further, I would say that Portaportal is more user-friendly to join, and so less time is required for set-up. Nevertheless, both are useful resources to know about.